United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Entomology and Pathology | 2500 S. Pine Knoll Dr. Flagstaff, AZ 86001 (520) 556-2130

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Subject: 1997 Insect and Disease Aerial Detection Surveys

To: Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest
2324 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, Az. 85006

The annual insect and disease aerial detection survey was conducted over the Tonto National Forest September 10-11, 1997 by R3 Entomology and Pathology observers. Enclosed are maps depicting the forest pest conditions. Please forward one copy of the map and this letter to the appropriate Ranger Districts. Following is a summary of the results of this survey.

Approximately 5400 acres of ponderosa pine mortality caused by western pine beetle and Ips was detected. A significant amount of this mortality is concentrated northeast of Young, north of the Sierra Ancha Wilderness, a line extending from Strawberry to Washington Park, and Madera Peak in the Pinals. We suspect this mortality is, in part, related to the severe drought conditions experienced in 1996.

Aspen defoliation was detected in small isolated pockets. We suspect this is the result of a combination of black leaf spot, caused by Marssonina populi, as well as aspen tortrix. Mortality is unusual from this and usually results from chronic defoliation occurring over many seasons.

Fire related mortality was detected in the Four Peaks wilderness area and the Mazatzal wilderness. The residual trees in these areas are potential sites for future bark beetle attacks. These sites will be monitored in the 98 aerial surveys for signs of attack.

Electronic format map files and data will be forwarded to John Lovato for incorporation with GIS.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, or insects and disease in your area, contact us at (520) 556-2071 and 556-2072. Thank you.

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